

Next time you set forth on a junket in search of bright autumn leaves, or seek a mid-day Midway repast at the Homestead, or want to view the mammoth construction work now under way at the \$400 million Jordanelle Dam project on U.S. Highway 40, take time off to view the present state of affairs at the aforementioned "village green" in mid-Heber.

Alas, the County Courthouse, deemed inefficient by Wasatch County commissioners in 1965 or thereabouts, has long since vanished. It was replaced, in 1967-68, by a squat, ugly (but doubtless efficient) new building designed by Young & Fowler. Messrs. Lorenzo Young and Robert Fowler may — or may not — have approved of the destruction of the historic "has-been," but the one-story brick-plus-basement structure ineptly reprinted as its replacement as appealing as your average office company building or minimal medical/dental center.

To better appreciate the fact that "modern" is not necessarily the equal of old, turn your eyes away from the efficient 1967 horror, and



Jack Goodman

enjoy the very pleasant sight of the still sturdy, still slightly brick and sandstone Wasatch Stake Tabernacle. Surprisingly, it now houses city services rather than Sunday sermons. Begun in 1887, but not completed until a few years afterwards, the well-proportioned building, tower and all, was designed by an unknown architect. According to the Utah State Historical Society, construction was "supervised by Abraham Hatch."

The tabernacle's interior was remodeled in 1930-31, but if you walk down its newly laid sandstone front walk today, you'll find nary a sign of the churchy interior long familiar to generations of Heber Valley's latter-day Saints. The structure has been gutted, and its chapel, altar and rows of long wooden benches worn by countless young, old and middle-aged worshippers, have vanished with the village elders.

However, the tabernacle's new interior is airy, well lighted and enhanced by the pale blue and white paint job on walls, partitions and stairwells. Consequently, Nora Jones, at work in the City Treasurer's office, has a far more pleasant view from her desk than does Freda Zufelt, the "information gal" in that uninviting Wasatch County office building just across the lawn. By the way, Zufelt was once quartered in a very different building, a railroad caboose that stood between the tabernacle and the 1967 county building.

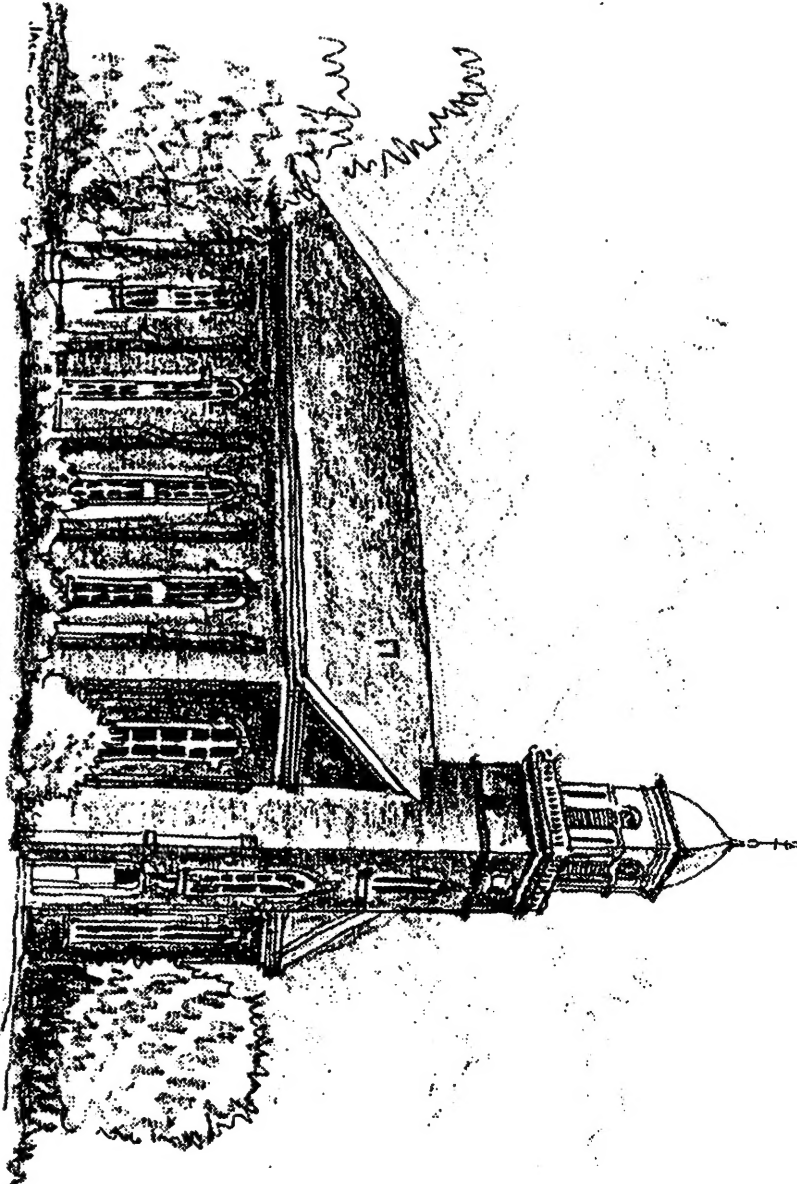
Out back of the tabernacle-turned-City Hall, the old LDS Social Hall is now a busy Senior Citizen's Center. And, as another reminder of bygone days, Daughters of Utah Pioneers artifacts are on display in the hallway of the one-time tabernacle. In contrast, a hallway notice to Heber citizens reminds them that the city council

meets in these no longer sacred precincts, with topics of the day including an anti-littering ordinance, approval of plumbing regulations, a discussion concerning the city water tank, and an analysis of traffic problems at 400 South and 200 West. There's one further reminder of days long gone. Not far from the police dispatcher's desk a painting by Vernon Murdock, presented to the city by the Heber Light & Power Co., shows 1910 horses and buggies hitched to the rail outside the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle. The building remains an outward mirror-image of the 1910 view, except for the row of police cars occupying the parking lot.

To the naked and unknowing eye, several Main Street structures near the 1887 tabernacle might not outlast this century. Allen's Shoe Repair shop at 135 S. Main seems viable as an old shoe, but Clyde's Billiards and Beer parlor and Mr. B's Pizzeria are both shuttered. A Pontiac sales emporium across the way has vanished — replaced (sign of the times) by the Timpanogos Trading Post, which boasts a colorful teepee. Editors at the *Wasatch Wave* and city planner Robert Mathis doubtless insist there's no thought of giving the place back to the Indians. Indeed, dam and highway construction on the Jordan-elle project, the puffing locomotives of the Heber Creeper, expansion of the Wasatch State Park golf course, and a new executive-size golf course at the Homestead are seen as signaling an upturn sure to bring new-life to everyone's favorite town.

ADDENDA: You can't save them all, of course, nor should we. Heber City and the Utah State Historical Society took the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle under their collective wing in 1975 to protect the integrity of (at the least) the exterior of the fine old building. And, for these past ever-so-many years, Salt Lake City has been funding restoration of its City-County Building (the county, of course, has pulled out). Now, with the landscaping work under way, the expensive effort is showing signs of paying off, visually.

However, the big iron ball will soon be swinging, if it hasn't started thudding already, at the Lincoln Ju-



Heber structure appears to be a tabernacle, but now serves as City Hall. The building is a prime example of an old structure renovated successfully for a new purpose.

Senior High School at 13th South and State. Time was when KSL-TV and then TRIAD were seen as the school building's potential saviors. Of late the structure has been an eyesore. Possibly you can still steal inside the fence and carry away a classic column, or a bit of decorative terra cotta memento. Meanwhile, the American Institute of Architects has conferred its "Firm of the Year" award upon the FFKR Architects Planners Firm. Among the latter's good works has been transformation of the old Salt Lake High School on Pierpont Avenue into a neighborhood-enhancing complex housing the offices and the Cafe Pierpont.

The AIA likewise gave high honors to Boyd A. Blackner and Associates for "an innovative solution of a very difficult design problem," namely the HUD Low Income Family Housing Project at 5th South and 14th West. And the firm of Gilles, Stransky, Brens & Assoc., was commended for the modest, utilitarian St. Vincent DePaul Center at Rio Grande St. and 2nd South.